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GB 1230592 A EP 0189817 A WO 88/04993 A

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INT CL<sup>a</sup> B42D 15/02

## (54) Identity card

(57) A sheet (10) of card material, forming part of a continuous web (6), is printed over an area (12) thereof on one side of the sheet with identity-relevant information, a line (20) being provided around said area (12) to enable a blank to be detached from the sheet.

On the opposite side of the blank, adhesive is provided, enabling, when the blank has been detached, the two halves (12a and 12b) to be folded about a crease line (22), and the two halves secured together in back-to-back relationship.

One of the halves (12b) may be provided with a window (14), enabling a photograph sandwiched between the two halves to be visible through the window.

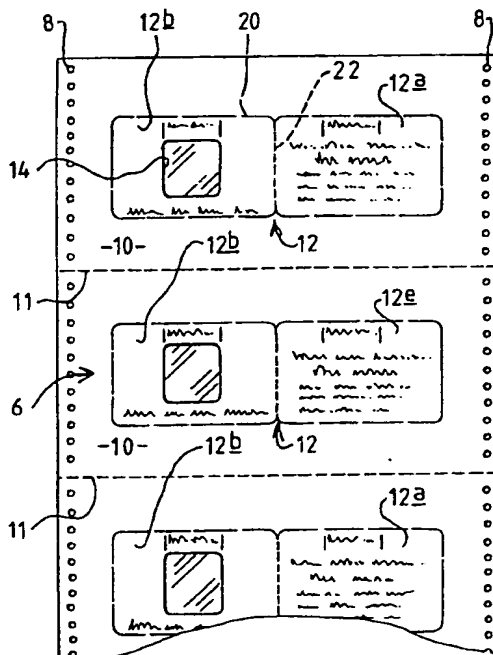


FIG 1

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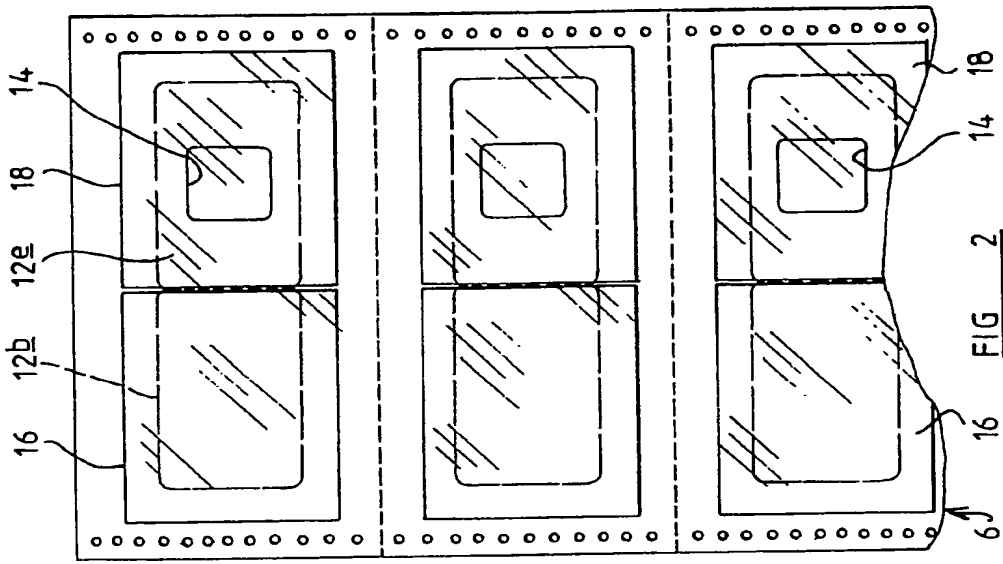


FIG. 2

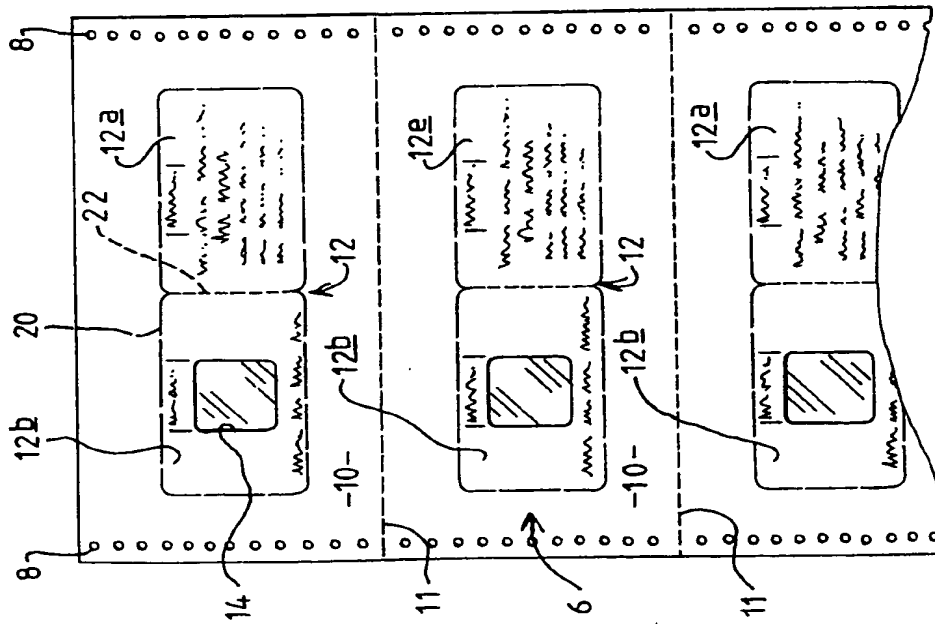


FIG. 1

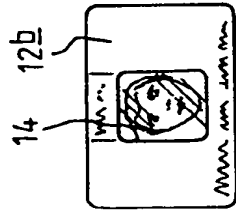


FIG. 3

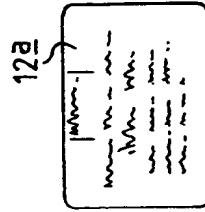


FIG. 4

**PATENTS ACT 1977**

**WL/BMC/A 5839 GB**

**Title: "Improvements relating to identity cards"**

**Description of Invention**

Identity cards are being carried more and more frequently, to identify the carrier and to allow him (e.g.) access to a club or society building such as gymnasium, to use public transport freely, or simply to identify himself.

Conventionally identity cards are of two types, one being the embossed plastic card which is used for banking or credit transactions, the other being a printed card, and it is with the latter type that the present invention is primarily concerned.

Difficulty is encountered in printing cards with (e.g.) the name of the relevant organisation and the name and membership number of the person concerned. For example, it is known to print onto discrete areas of a continuous web of card, e.g. by the use of an impact or imaging printer under computer control, relevant information regarding the persons concerned, and to detach said discrete areas to provide the identity cards. There is however a limitation regarding the thickness of the web which may conveniently be used in such a process, and generally this technique results in the production of a flimsy card which quickly looks tatty.

In addition where it is desired that cards are utilised in conjunction with a photograph of the person concerned, it is conventionally necessary to utilise a wallet to carry both the card and the photograph. Not only is this expensive, but also it allows misuse by permitting easy substitution of the photograph. A solution to the latter problem has been to over print the photograph with (e.g.) an identification number which should then tally with the number on the identity card: however this requires careful inspection to check.

According to this invention there is provided a method of production an identity card involving the steps:

- (a) printing information onto a discrete area of one side (hereinafter referred to as the front side) of a sheet;
- (b) detaching from the sheet a blank which includes said area; and

- (c) folding the blank about a central crease line and securing the two halves of the blank in back-to-back relationship, by adhesive means.

The adhesive means may be provided on the blank manually: thus when the blank has been removed from the sheet, a coating or line of adhesive may be provided on the reverse side of the blank: preferably however the adhesive means is provided on the reverse side of the sheet ab initio, i.e. by being provided on the reverse side of the web prior to removal of the blank from the sheet. Thus the adhesive means may be provided by an adhesive sheet, protected by a peel-off layer.

In this manner relevant information may be printed onto both halves of the blank, resulting in the production of a card containing information on both sides.

In addition, being of folded construction, the card may be produced relatively stiff, without the use of a sheet of undue thickness.

Relevant information may comprise the name of a person, his address or his company, the organisation to which the card pertains as to membership, membership number or (in the case of travel cards) details of travel permitted by the carrier.

If desired the adhesive means is provided on the reverse side of the web so as at least to extend around the three edges of the one half of the blank, e.g. in a band extending around the side edges of said half. Preferably however the adhesive means extends completely over one half of the blank, enabling the two halves to be firmly secured together in face-to-face contact.

Advantageously the blank is bounded by perforations applied to the sheet to enable the blank readily to be detached from the sheet, advantageously said perforations being applied to the sheet so as to extend through said adhesive sheet.

Where it is desired that the identity card carry a photograph, preferably one half of the blank is provided with a window, which may be defined by perforations enabling a window panel to be detached from the blank, or may be stamped out at the time the perforations are provided in the sheet.

In this manner a photograph may be placed in such a position as to be visible through the window when the two halves have been secured together.

If desired, a transparent covering such as a film covering may be provided on said reverse side of the sheet so as to extend over the window. Preferably however such film extends completely over one half of the blank, i.e. being the half not provided with the adhesive means, and has applied thereto said perforations defining said blank, enabling when the blank is detached from the sheet the film to be detached with it.

Preferably the sheet is afforded by a continuous web of card material, adjacent sheets being separated by fold lines enabling the sheets to be stacked both prior to and subsequent to printing. Preferably the web is provided adjacent to each side edge with tractor means, such as a line of holes, enabling the web to be fed by a tractor feed through a printer.

According to this invention there is also provided an identity card formed by folding a blank in half and securing the two halves together by adhesive means, the blank being provided on one side thereof with information appearing on both sides of the card.

Preferably one of the halves is provided with a window and a photograph sandwiched between the two halves is visible through the window.

According to this invention there is provided a sheet of card for use in the production of an identity card, the sheet being provided with a line of perforations defining a blank, and a crease line dividing the blank into two halves, the blank being provided on one side with printed information and being provided on the other side with adhesive means enabling the blank when detached from the web to be folded about said crease line and the two halves secured together in face-to-face relationship.

Preferably one half of the blank is provided with a window, and advantageously the blank is provided on said other side with a transparent film covering said window.

There will now be given a detailed description, to be read with reference to the accompanying drawings, of a method of production of an identity card which is a preferred embodiment of this invention, having been selected for the purposes of illustrating the invention by way of example.

In the accompanying drawing:

FIGURE 1 is a view showing a web of card material, comprising adjacent sheets used in the performance of the invention;

FIGURE 2 is a reverse side of the web of card material shown in Figure 1;

FIGURE 3 is a view of one side of an identity card produced by the performance of said method, said card also being illustrative of certain aspects of the invention; and

FIGURE 4 is a view of the other side of the identity card.

The web of card material 6 used in the practice of this invention is designed for feeding through a printer by tractor means, the web being provided on each side edge with a row of holes 8. The web 6 comprises adjacent sheets 10, separated by fold lines 11 in conventional manner enabling the web to be stacked in the conventional folded manner.

The web is fed through a printer, which may be an impact printer or an imaging printer such as a laser printer, to print on one side of the web 6, on each sheet 10 in discrete areas 12 thereof, relevant information, which may for one half 12a be information relating to an organisation common to all membership cards, and on the other half 12b personalised information relating to the individual members.

The web 6 is then passed through a press, at which a window 14 is stamped out of the half 12b.

On the other side, shown in Figure 2, each sheet 10 has adhesively attached to one half 12a thereof adhesive means 16 afforded by a self adhesive layer protected by a peel off strip, whilst adhesively secured over the half 12b is a cellophane sheet 18, which extends specifically over the window area 14.

The web 6 is then passed through a stamping machine at which a severing line 20 is provided around said area 12, by die-cast perforations, in such a manner as to almost but not completely detach said area from the remainder of each sheet 10. In addition, a row 22 of perforations is provided between the two halves 12a and 12b, affording a crease line therebetween.

On completion of the stamping operation, the blank 12 may be pressed from the sheet 10, and the adhesive 16 on the side 12a exposed by removing the peel off layer. A photograph may then be applied to the half 12a, and the two halves may be folded together about the crease line 22, and the half 12b secured over the half 12a, the photo being visible through the window 14, whilst being protected by the covering film 18.

In this manner, a relatively stiff identity card is provided with a photograph, in such a manner as to render it difficult to remove the photograph and replace it with a different photograph. Such identity cards may be produced as blanks at high speed, enabling the sheets to be detached subsequent to printing and stamping, if desired for postal despatch to the members concerned, enabling said members to conclude the manufacturing operation by the step of folding and adhesively securing the blank.

If desired, the film covering 18 may be omitted. Alternatively, the film may be provided in a continuous strip extending over one half of the web 6 of card material, the adhesive strip 16 conveniently being provided in a similar manner over the opposite half.

It will of course be appreciated that whilst the invention has been described in relation to the preferred embodiment above as including the provision of a window for a photograph, identity cards may nonetheless be advantageously provided by the use of the invention in its broader terms, without the provision of a photograph.

The features disclosed in the foregoing description, or the following claims, or the accompanying drawings, expressed in their specific forms or in terms of a means for performing the disclosed function, or a method or process for attaining the disclosed result, or a class or group of substances or compositions, as appropriate, may, separately or in any combination of such features, be utilised for realising the invention in diverse forms thereof.

**CLAIMS:**

1. A method of production an identity card involving the steps:
  - (a) printing information onto a discrete area of one side of a sheet;
  - (b) detaching from the web a blank which includes said area; and
  - (c) folding the blank about a central crease line and securing the two halves of the blank in back-to-back relationship, by adhesive means.
2. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the adhesive means is provided on the blank manually.
3. A method according to Claim 2 wherein the blank when it has been removed from the sheet, a coating or a line of adhesive is provided on the reverse side of the blank.
4. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the adhesive means is provided on the reverse side of the sheet ab initio.
5. A method according to Claim 4 wherein the adhesive means is provided by an adhesive sheet protected by a peel off layer.
6. A method according to one of Claims 4 and 5 wherein the adhesive means is provided on the reverse side of the sheet so as at least to extend around the side edges of one half of the blank.
7. A method according to Claim 6 wherein the adhesive means extends as a band around three side edges of said half.
8. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the blank is bounded by perforations applied to the sheet to enable the blank readily to be detached from the sheet.
9. A method according to Claim 8, as appendant to any one of Claims 5 to 7, wherein the perforations are applied to the sheet so as to extend through said adhesive sheet.



10. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein one half of the blank is provided with a window.

11. A method according to Claim 10 wherein said window is defined by perforations enabling a window panel to be detached from the blank.

12. A method according to Claim 10, as appendant to Claim 8, wherein the window is stamped out at the time the perforations are provided to the sheet to define the blank.

13. A method according to any one of Claims 10 to 12 wherein a transparent covering is provided on said reverse side of the web so as to extend over the window.

14. A method according to Claim 13 wherein said film extends completely over one half of the blank.

15. A method according to Claim 14 wherein said perforations applied to the sheet to define the blank are applied to said film.

16. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the sheet is afforded by a continuous web of card material, adjacent sheets being separated by fold lines enabling the sheets to be stacked both prior to and subsequent to printing.

17. A method according to Claim 16 wherein the web is provided adjacent to each side edge with tractor means, such as a line of holes, enabling the web to be fed by a tractor feed through a printer.

18. An identity card formed by folding a blank in half and securing the two halves together by adhesive means, the blank being provided on one side thereof with information appearing on both sides of the card.

19. An identity card according to Claim 18 wherein one of the halves is provided with a window and a photograph is sandwiched between the two halves so as to be visible through the window.

20. A sheet of card for use in the production of an identity card, the sheet being provided with a line of perforation defining a blank, and a crease line dividing the blank into two halves, the blank being provided on one side with printed information and being provided on the other side with adhesive means enabling the blank when detached from the sheet to be folded about said crease line and the two halves secured together in face-to-face relationship.

21. A web according to Claim 20 wherein one half of the blank is provided with a window.

22. A web according to Claim 21 wherein the blank is provided on said other side with a transparent film covering said window.

23. A method of making an identity card, when carried out substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

24. An identity card, constructed and arranged substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

25. A web of card for use in the production of an identity card, constructed and arranged substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figures 1 and 2 of the accompanying drawings.

26. Any novel feature or novel combination of features as hereinbefore described and/or as shown in the accompanying drawings.